

REUTER

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SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL 27, REUTER -- AN UNABATED LEAKAGE OF INFORMATION HAS MADE MANY FOREIGN FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO SHARE THEIR SECRETS, THE RETIRING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, ADMIRAL BOBBY INMAN, SAID HERE TODAY.

"THE IMPACT OF THE PSYCHOLOGY OF LEAKS, WHICH BEGAN IN FULL CRY IN THE VIETNAM CONFLICT WHEN IT WAS THE HEROIC THING TO DO SOMETHING THAT SHOWED YOUR OPPOSITION (TO THE WAR) CONTINUES UNABATED AT THIS POINT IN TIME," INMAN SAID.

MANY FOREIGN FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR FEAR IT WOULD BECOME PUBLIC, HE SAID.

ONE CAN TELL A STORY OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN A FOREIGN EVENT WITH CARE, WITHOUT DAMAGING THIS COUNTRY'S INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES, HE TOLD THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION.

"BUT IT IS FAR MORE DIFFICULT WHEN THE URGE IS THERE TO DESCRIBE HOW HE KNEW AND IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO DO THIS WITHOUT DAMAGING THE COUNTRY'S INTELLIGENCE GATHERING ACTIVITIES."

REFERRING PARTLY TO SATELLITES SENT INTO SPACE TO WATCH FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS AND MILITARY MOVEMENTS, INMAN SAID HE BELIEVED U.S. INTELLIGENCE AND WARNING SYSTEMS AGAINST A SURPRISE ATTACK WERE BETTER THAN EVER.

"I SIMPLY REJECT OUT OF HAND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT WE COULD BE SURPRISED WITH A PEARL HARBOR-KIND OF ATTACK OF ANY SUBSTANTIAL SIZE," HE SAID.

"AND THE SAME PRETTY WELL HOLDS TRUE FOR THE EASTERN FRONT -- THE CENTRAL FRONT OF EUROPE -- SAVE FOR CONDITIONS WHEN ONE HAS A VERY, VERY LONG PERIOD OF BAD WEATHER."

"IF YOU BELIEVE THIS COUNTRY'S PRIMARY PROBLEM IN THE DECADE AHEAD IS GOING TO BE DEALING WITH THE SOVIET UNION LOOKING ACROSS THE CENTRAL FRONT OF EUROPE, YOU CAN RELAX ABOUT THE CURRENT CAPABILITIES OF THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND WHERE IT NEEDS TO GO.

"IF YOU HAPPEN TO SHARE MY VIEW THAT WE ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO FIND THIS DECADE ONE OF GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN COMPETITION FOR RAW MATERIALS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND MARKETS AND IN DEALING WITH INSTABILITY IN MANY AREAS OF THE WORLD, THEN WE HAVE A VERY LONG WAY TO GO AND NEED VERY STRONG SUPPORT